

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-05

IO-10 L-02 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 OES-03

SS-15 SP-02 ACDA-05 AEC-05 AGR-05 DOTE-00 FMC-01

INT-05 JUSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01 CEA-01 TRSE-00 AF-04

ARA-06 NEA-06 OIC-02 /129 W
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R 021015Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6438

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15693

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: JAPANESE VIEWS ON STRAITS

REF: A. STATE 261440 B. TOKYO 13622 C. TOKYO 14299

D. TOKYO 13310

SUMMARY: IN COORDINATED ACTION EMBASSY AND UK EMBASSY SOUGHT AND RECEIVED FONOFF ASSURANCES THAT GOJ CONTEMPLATES NO CHANGE IN POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR FREE NAVIGATION OF INTERNATIONAL STRAITS.

1. IN ACTION COORDINATED WITH UK EMBASSY, EMBOFF QUESTIONED KUROKOCHI, DIRECTOR LOS OFFICE, AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT GOJ HAS NOT AND DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE MODIFICATION OF POLICY ON FREE TRANSIT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL STRAITS. SHE EXPLAINED THAT
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FONOFF HAD ADVISED DEFENSE ATTACHE IN JAKARTA TO SEND "INFORMAL"

PERSONAL LETTER TO GOI NAVY SINCE PASSAGE THROUGH SINGAPORE STRAITS INCLUDED AN AREA CLAIMED BY INDONESIA AS TERRITORIAL WATERS.

2. DRAWING ON REFTEL A PARA 3, EMBOFF INFORMED KUROKOCHI THAT USG REGARDS SERIOUSLY ANY INDICATION OF MODIFICATION OF STRAITS POLICY ON PART OF GOJ IN VIEW OF SENSITIVE USG-GOI ARCHIPELAGO NEGOTIATIONS AND GROUP OF FIVE UNITED POSITION RE FREE PASSAGE OF STRAITS USED FOR INTERNATIONAL TRANSIT IN LOS CONFERENCE FORUM.

3. REID, UK EMBASSY, SIMULTANEOUSLY SAW KAWAGUCHI, HEAD OF LEGAL AFFAIRS DIVISION, AND WAS SIMILARLY ASSURED THAT GOJ PLANS NO CHANGE IN POLICY OF FREE PASSAGE INTERNATIONAL STRAITS. HOWEVER, KAWAGUCHI ADMITTED GOJ MIGHT IN FUTURE CONSIDER A SYSTEM OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION FOR WARSHIPS. REID WAS NOT POSITIVE, BUT FROM CONTEXT ASSUMED KAWAGUCHI WAS REFERRING TO POSSIBLE CHANGE TO REQUIRE PRIOR NOTIFICATION FOR WARSHIPS TRANSITING TERRITORIAL WATERS AND NOT RPT NOT INTERNATIONAL STRAITS THAT MAY BE NEWLY CREATED IN PROJECTED LOS REGIME.

4. COMMENT: FONOFF APPEARS FIRMLY IN LINE WITH GROUP OF FIVE POSITION RE FREE PASSAGE (NO PRIOR NOTIFICATION OR STRAIT STATE CONSENT) OF INTERNATIONAL STRAITS. DEFATT COMMENTS MAY REPRESENT PRIVATE INTERPRETATION OF HIS INSTRUCTIONS IN LIGHT OF RECENT JAPANESE DOMESTIC CONTROVERSY RE ENTRANCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPON BEARING WARSHIPS INTO TERRITORIAL WATERS (REFTELS B,C, AND D.). PRIOR NOTIFICATION FOR PASSAGE OF FOREIGN WARSHIPS THROUGH JAPANESE TERRITORIAL WATERS DOES NOT NOW APPEAR TO BE A LIVE ISSUE.
HODGSON

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